

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2732

To ensure that all States participating in the National Boll Weevil Eradication Program are treated equitably.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 15, 2000

Mr. GRAMM introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To ensure that all States participating in the National Boll Weevil Eradication Program are treated equitably.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Boll Weevil Eradi-
5 cation Equity Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) as of the date of enactment of this Act, in-
9 festation by *Anthonomus grandis* (commonly known
10 as the “boll weevil”) has caused more than

1 \$15,000,000,000 in damage to cotton crops of the
2 United States and costs cotton producers in the
3 United States approximately \$300,000,000 annually;

4 (2) through the National Boll Weevil Eradi-
5 cation Program (referred to in this Act as the “pro-
6 gram”), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection
7 Service of the Department of Agriculture partners
8 with producers to provide technical assistance and
9 Federal cost share funds to States in an effort to
10 eradicate the boll weevil;

11 (3) States that enrolled in the program before
12 1994 have since been able to complete boll weevil
13 eradication and were provided a Federal cost share
14 that accounted for an average of 26.9 percent of the
15 total cost of eradication;

16 (4) States that enrolled in the program in or
17 after 1994 account for 65 percent of the national
18 cotton acreage and are now provided an average
19 Federal cost share of only 4 percent, placing a tre-
20 mendous financial burden on the individual pro-
21 ducers;

22 (5) the addition of vast acreage into the pro-
23 gram has resulted in an increased need for Federal
24 cost share funds;

1 (6) a producer that participates in the program
 2 today deserves not less than the same level of com-
 3 mitment that was provided to producers that en-
 4 rolled in the program before 1994; and

5 (7) the ability of all States to eradicate the boll
 6 weevil would prevent further migration of the boll
 7 weevil to boll weevil-free areas and reintroduction of
 8 the boll weevil in those areas having completed boll
 9 weevil eradication.

10 **SEC. 3. BOLL WEEVIL ERADICATION ASSISTANCE.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
 12 sion of law, the Secretary of Agriculture shall provide
 13 funds to pay at least 26.9 percent of the total program
 14 costs incurred by producers participating in the program.

15 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 16 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act
 17 such sums as are necessary for fiscal years 2001 through
 18 2004.

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